

VZCZCXYZ0010
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHTI #0365 1001302
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 101302Z APR 06
FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4101
INFO RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 2876
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 2686
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0662
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 5227
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO 0405
RUEHSQ/AMEMBASSY SKOPJE 4077
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB 2909
RUEPGBA/CDR USEUCOM INTEL VAIHINGEN GE
RHMFISS/CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE
RUEAAIA/CIA WASHDC
RHMFISS/COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RHDLNC/COMUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
RUFNPKB/COMUSNAVEUR POLAD NAPLES IT
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 2128
RUEHPS/USOFFICE PRISTINA 3378

UNCLAS TIRANA 000365

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STATE FOR EUR/SCE (MBENEDICT/DSAINZ)
NSC FOR BRAUN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL PGOV PINR AL

SUBJECT: ALBANIA: PROTESTING THE IRANIAN REGIME'S
TREATMENT OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES, PARTICULARLY THE BAHAI

REF: A. STATE 54484

1B. TIRANA 40

11. (U) Pol/Econ Chief raised reftel demarche with Mimoza Kondo, Office Director for the Americas desk at the MFA. Kondo was not aware of the issue, and thanked us for the information. She noted the sensitive nature of religious issues in Albania, but agreed that religious tolerance was something governments should support. Kondo agreed this is certainly something MFA officials could raise with Iranians provided the issue came up. She would undertake to see if this was also something the GOA could more publicly.

12. (SBU) Comment: The mufti in the northern city of Shkodra (a Catholic stronghold) has raised concerns about the placement of a statue of Mother Teresa in a public square (Ref B). While tensions are not particularly high, and the mufti appears to be walking back some of his more strident comments, we expect that the GOA will want to steer clear of commenting publicly on any religious issue for now. End Comment.

RIES